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AN ADDRESS

TO THE

ENGLISH NATION;

WITH A

SLIGHT SKETCH

OF THE

EXISTING GRIEVANCES,

AND A RECOMMENDATION TO

PETITION WITH VIGOUR,

AS A MEANS OF OBTAINING

A REPEAL OF

PITT AND GRENVILLE's BILLS.

"When bad men conspire, good men must associate."

Whig Club Declaration.

LONDON:

Printed for J. SMITH, at the POP-GUN, Portsmouth-Street, Lincoln's-Inn-Fields.

[Price One Penny.]

1796.

Just published, Price 1s. 6d.

BY J. SMITH, AT THE POP-GUN, PORTSMOUTH-STREET.

Assassination of the King!

OR, THE

Pop-Gun Plot Unravelled;

Containing an Account of the Apprehension, Treatment in Prison, and repeated Examinations before the PRIVY COUNCIL, of J. SMITH and G. HIGGINS, on a Charge of

HIGH TREASON:

With Exact Copies of the Warrants of Commitment, Discharge, Letters, &c. &c. To which is added,

A LETTER FROM MR. PARKINSON,

The Particulars of his Examination before the PRIVY COUNCIL, and of his Intercourse with Ministry on the above Business.

"PLOTS, 'tis well known, are necessary tools
"To lift up knaves, and scare believing fools!
"Then marvel not why Courtiers, in this season,
"In TRUTH find LIBEL, and in POP-GUNS—TREASON.
"ALARMS and PANNICS ever must await
"Those whom CORRUPTION lifts to haughty state;
"But should REFORM a People's Rights restore,
"POP-GUN REPORTS would fright GREAT MEN no more."*

* Vide SMITH's Sign.

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Also, Price 1s.

A NARRATIVE of the Arrest, Examinations before the PRIVY COUNCIL, and Imprisonment of

P. T. LE MAITRE,

Accused of being a Party in the POP-GUN PLOT,

OR,

A Pretended Plot to Kill the KING!

In which is introduced the Correspondence with the *PRIVY COUNCIL, &c.*

N. B. SMITH, HIGGINS, *and* LE MAITRE *surrendered themselves on the* 15*th of January,* 1796, *at the Old Bailey, in consequence of a Bill of Indictment having been found against them the day before, for* HIGH TREASON!

41 11 6 229.

A N

ADDRESS, &c.

FRIENDS, COUNTRYMEN, AND FELLOW-CITIZENS,

THOUGH I do not pride myſelf on knowing much of politics, I will yet affirm that the Bills which lately received the Royal Aſſent, by commiſſion, entitled, "A Bill for the "Preſervation of his Majeſty's Perſon and Government;" and alſo "a Bill for the better Prevention of Seditious Aſſem-"blages," are of the moſt important conſequence to the Britiſh nation. So much ſo, that if the Britiſh nation ſuffers ſuch an infringement, without uſing the utmoſt conſtitutional efforts to have it repealed, I have the hardihood to ſay that the Britiſh ſpirit is fallen from that pinnacle of glorious liberty, once the admiration of Europe, to a ſet of men deſtitute of every feeling for the glory and happineſs of their country—ready to crouch to the footſtool of a deſigning and wicked man, who, to accompliſh his own ends, cares not to whom, or to what methods he has recourſe.

To be a friend to liberty, in theſe days, is ſufficient for a perſon to be branded with the epithet of a Jacobin—a man who is an enemy to all ſocial order and government—one whoſe

whoſe blood-thirſty intentions carry him to aim at the aſſaſſination of his King!——But permit me to aſk who make uſe of ſuch baſe epithets?—Perſons employed by a corrupt and wicked Adminiſtration—men of ſuch characters as *that friend to ſocial order* JOHN REEVES, the upright Judge of Newfoundland, who, under the protection of an abandoned Miniſtry, has had the aſſurance to affirm, in the face of day, through the medium of a deſpicable and inſipid pamphlet, that "the Government of England is a Monarchy—the "Monarchy is the ancient ſtock from which have ſprung "thoſe goodly branches of the Legiſlature, the Lords and "Commons, that at the ſame time give ornament to the "tree, and afford ſhelter to thoſe who ſeek protection under "it. But thoſe are ſtill only branches, and derive their ori-"gin and their nutriment from their common parent: they "may be lopped off, and the tree is a tree ſtill; ſhorn indeed "of its honors, but not, like them, caſt into the fire."

The intention of this artful and inſipid publication is to bring the Conſtitution into contempt, as fixed and eſtabliſhed at the Revolution of 1688.—I will aſk whether ſuch a pamphlet, publiſhed by ſuch a perſon, does not tend to inſinuate that the Lords and Commons are of no manner of uſe in the Government of England—that the Monarchy of England is abſolute, and that it is in the power of the Executive Government to cruſh them?—Such a man, I contend, is more dangerous to the commonwealth, than the meetings of the London Correſponding or any other Society throughout the kingdom, whoſe ends are only to bring about a reform, in a peaceable and conſtitutional manner. Every man, I am ſure, muſt be aware, that the object of the LONDON CORRESPONDING SOCIETY is to bring about a reform in Parliament; and I am not afraid to aſſert, that until there is a reform in Parliament a redreſs of other grievances will be but of little or no avail.——The Parliament is influenced, in a great meaſure, by the Miniſtry, not to ſay more. We put our confidence in a ſet of men, the major part of whom, for the ſake of their private intereſt, ſacrifice the honor, the glory, and the intereſt of their conſtituents.

My God! when a nation is engaged in a *ruinous*, *diſgraceful* and *calamitous* war, and our fellow citizens meet together

to

to obtain, in a conſtitutional way, a redreſs of ſome, if all is unattainable, of our grievances, in conſequence of ſuch meetings, our upright Miniſter comes forward, ſays that the exiſting laws are not ſufficient for the protection of the Conſtitution and the Royal Perſon againſt a ſet of men who are enemies to all ſocial order and government—that his Majeſty and his Miniſters had thought it adviſable a further ſecurity ſhould be eſtabliſhed for the ſafety of his Royal Perſon and the Conſtitution; and, with the greateſt aſſurance imaginable, brings forward two Bills, which, in the ſtate they were introduced into both Houſes of Parliament, went to the utter extinction of liberty.—And what was the reaſon which our *immaculate Miniſter* aſſigned for throwing the odium on the London Correſponding Society? That as his Majeſty was paſſing to *his* Parliament on the opening of the Seſſion, ſome individuals had the audacity to hiſs and inſult him, and to throw a ſtone at the Royal carriage. That as there had been, a day or two previous to this tranſaction, a meeting of the LONDON CORRESPONDING SOCIETY, at COPENHAGEN-HOUSE, he pledged himſelf that the inſult offered to his Majeſty was in conſequence of ſuch meeting.—Good God! becauſe there was a meeting of the London Correſponding Society a few days previous to the attack on the Royal carriage, (which every perſon muſt ſincerely deplore) the ſtigma is to be attached to it; and when proofs were demanded in both Houſes of Parliament, there were none produced:—the demand was evaded;—and why not attach the blame to a few individuals employed by the Miniſtry, for the purpoſe of getting thoſe Bills paſſed, as well as to the London Correſponding Society? and the rather, when ſuch a pamphlet as REEVES's came out juſt after the tranſaction.

Had the Miniſtry been ſucceſsful in their ſchemes for the deſtruction of Hardy, Tooke, Thelwall, Joyce, &c. &c. theſe Bills would not have been thought of; but being unſucceſsful, through that palladium of Engliſh liberty, a jury, they have contrived, through an influenced, not to ſay a corrupt, majority in the two Houſes of Parliament, to get thoſe Bills paſſed, which, though in their preſent amended ſtate, are great infringements on the liberty of the ſubject; yet, for the amendments which were made to them in the committees of both

Houſes

Houſes of Parliament, we are not to thank our *worthy Miniſtry*. No—we are to thank thoſe patriots who yet have a ſenſe of their danger—who called forth thoſe meetings, thoſe petitions, and thoſe remonſtrances, which, though they clearly ſtated the ſenſe of a decided majority of the nation, could only obtain a few amendments to the moſt obnoxious parts of the Bills. I truſt that the patriotic endeavours of thoſe noblemen and gentlemen who ſtood forth in oppoſition to the Bills will always be remembered by the Britiſh nation with gratitude and affection! in particular the endeavours of the Dukes of Bedford, Norfolk and Northumberland, the Marquis of Lanſdowne, the Earls of Lauderdale, Derby, Stanhope, and Albemarle, Lord Thurlow, Meſſrs. Fox, Sheridan, Erſkine, Grey, Sturt, &c. &c. and proud am I to record that the energy of Engliſhmen is not yet expired; and that when an Engliſhman is rouſed to action, it is not a little that will be able to deter him from his purſuit.

I addreſs myſelf to the people of England---to thoſe who have yet a ſenſe of their danger---to thoſe who have a ſpirit to reſiſt oppreſſion---to thoſe who would not ſacrifice the happineſs of millions of their fellow-creatures to the ambition of a proud and deſigning man. Let us rouſe our feelings---awake from our languor---let us come forward with unanimity and concurrence, and form ourſelves into ſocieties, throughout the kingdom, according to the ſtatutes of theſe obnoxious Bills, and produce petitions and remonſtrances, in a legal and conſtitutional manner, to both Houſes of Parliament, and to his Majeſty, who, though ſurrounded with ſcorpions and flatterers, whoſe utmoſt endeavours are to prevent the remonſtrances of his faithful people from being heard, will awake, as it were, from a dream, ſhake off his ſhackles, and with thoſe chains with which thoſe wicked and abandoned men would have encircled the friends of liberty, I truſt he will reward thoſe neſts of vipers which he cheriſhes in his boſom.

What I have ſtated may poſſibly be conſtrued treaſon; but I muſt go on, and ſtate yet further a few more of our grievances, and the means of redreſſing them.

The frowns of a gracious Providence ſeem to have reached our once happy country; and that ſtate of ſtarvation which

our

our immaculate Miniſter intended for the French, ſeems to be faſt approaching our native country. That great and neceſſary doctrine, experience, has proved that our Miniſters have neither economy, humanity or penetration. They have wantonly laviſhed the produce of our ſoil upon a fruitleſs cruſade. Our granaries exhauſted! our flocks periſhed! the ſeaſons refuſe to haſten our crops!!—It is evident, my fellow citizens, that the country is arrived at ſuch a pitch of miſery, that without timely help it muſt come to utter ruin; and the queſtion is where is this help to be found?—We cannot expect it from our internal reſources—we cannot expect it from *foreign ſubſidies* or *foreign wars*. Theſe are they which dry up our treaſure, conſume our proviſions, and depopulate our country.—If I may be allowed to ſpeak my opinion, it would, in a great meaſure, be alleviated by a peace. Thoſe exportations of proviſions, corn, hay, &c. to Quiberon, to the Weſt Indies, to the Continent, &c. would be at an end. There would not be ſo great a fleet to victual, the troops would be, in a great meaſure, diſbanded, and huſbandry would flouriſh. Plenty would be reſtored, in a great degree, as it is evident there is not ſo much proviſions conſumed in the cottage, by one third, as there is in the tent. Let us then alſo remonſtrate for a peace, an honorable peace—let ſuffering humanity have reſt, and let the wife enjoy the conſolation of having around her a beloved huſband and her riſing progeny—let the din of war ceaſe, and the infernal practice of *crimping* would be at an end; and let miniſters, inſtead of waſting the public money by giving penſions, &c. to a ſet of profligates, diſtribute ſome of it to the relief of the induſtrious mechanic, and the poor whom they have driven to diſtreſs.

Numerous are our grievances, and many are the ſhackles and clogs on our liberty. But let us rouſe our ſpirits and our abilities—Numbers, union, and perſeverance, muſt be crowned with ſucceſs in the end; and at a future period we may have the conſolation of reflecting, that though we ſtruggled hard, the advantages which we accrued by ſuch ſtruggle amply rewarded us, by gaining "a Repeal of thoſe Bills," Peace and Plenty, an Honeſt Parliament, perhaps an Annual Parliament, wherein each individual will have his repreſenta-

tive,

tive, instead of suffering, as at present, *two thousand six hundred and eleven persons* to return *Three Hundred and Fifty Members of the House of Commons*, whilst the towns of Sheffield, Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds, Wolverhampton, &c. containing above *Three Hundred Thousand People, have no Electors or Representatives whatever.*

Much more may be said; but as I sat out only with an intention of stating a few of our grievances, I shall but observe farther, that by the united Petitions and Remonstrances of the nation (for which purpose I would advise, as I before hinted, that affiliated societies may be formed throughout the kingdom, though in such a manner as may not be liable to the penalties inflicted by those Bills) to both Houses of Parliament, and to his Majesty, whose heart is at all times open to the petitions of his faithful people, I trust a repeal of those Bills may soon be obtained, or that they will not be suffered to be carried into execution; and also by uniting in the same legal and constitutional manner, by similar Petitions and Remonstrances to his Majesty and to both Houses of Parliament, I flatter myself our other grievances will be redressed —Peace restored on a permanent and secure basis—and Commerce, attended with Plenty, flourish!—May our efforts be crowned with success, is the sincere wish of

A FRIEND TO LIBERTY AND PEACE.

January 1, 1796.

FINIS.

Just published, Price 1s.

BY J. SMITH, AT THE POP-GUN,

EXISTING CIRCUMSTANCES

THE

WATCH-WORD OF DESPOTISM,

OR A

CONVENTION BILL

THE

GRAVE OF THE CONSTITUTION.